

[23 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Shortage of Judges

4048. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Shortage of Judges causing delays", which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 1st April, 2001;

(b) how many vacancies are there in various High Courts in the country;

(c) by when Government propose to fill up these vacancies;

(d) whether it is a fact that successive Law Commissions and other Committees have recommended to increase the number of judicial officers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Government to these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Government has seen the Press Report.

(b) and (c) As on 18.04.2001 there were 186 vacancies of Judges in the approved strength of 647 Judges/Additional Judges in various High Courts of the country.

The vacancies of Judges arise, from time to time, due to retirement, resignation and elevation etc. of the Judges. The filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. Every effort is being made to fill up the vacancies expeditiously. It is not possible to indicate the time by which these vacancies would be filled up.

(d) to (f) The Eleventh Law Commission in its 120th Report on "Manpower Planning in Judiciary-A Blue Print" in July, 1987, inter-alia, observed that the strength of Judicial Officers in India was far less as compared to strength of certain other countries. The Commission recommended that the present

strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population in a phased manner.

The Judges strength in the District/subordinate Courts is worked out on the basis of yard sticks fixed by the concerned High Courts. The posts of Judges/Judicial Officers along with supporting staff are created by the concerned State Governments. These posts are also filled up by the concerned State Governments/UT Administration/ High Courts as per their rules and procedure. The 120th Report of the Law Commission which had recommended increase in the number of Judicial Officers was circulated amongst all the State governments/UT Administrations/High Courts for necessary action at their end.

Assistance to earthquake victims through KPT

† 4049. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether drinking water is being supplied to Kandla Port from the rural areas of Kutch;

(b) if so, in what manner and under which heads the proposal regarding providing of assistance to earthquake victims of rural areas through the Kandla Port Trust has been approved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating any proposal for providing financial and other assistance through the Kandla Port Trust?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Some quantity of water is being supplied to Kandla Port by Gujarat Water Supply & Sewage Board from the nearby Tapar Dam and the Tube Wells bored in the rural areas viz. Chopadva, Ludva, Viri and Nagalpar.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.